

## PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICE FOR INSTANT MESSAGING

### RELATED APPLICATIONS

**[0001]** This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Nos. 60/937,993, "Portable Multifunction Device," filed Jun. 29, 2007; 60/946,969, "Portable Electronic Device for Instant Messaging," filed Jun. 28, 2007; 60/879,469, "Portable Multifunction Device," filed Jan. 8, 2007; 60/883,819, "Portable Electronic Device for Instant Messaging," filed Jan. 7, 2007; 60/879,253, "Portable Multifunction Device," filed Jan. 7, 2007; and 60/824,769, "Portable Multifunction Device," filed Sep. 6, 2006. All of these applications are incorporated by referenced herein in their entirety.

**[0002]** This application is related to the following applications: (1) U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/188,182, "Touch Pad For Handheld Device," filed Jul. 1, 2002; (2) U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/722,948, "Touch Pad For Handheld Device," filed Nov. 25, 2003; (3) U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/643,256, "Movable Touch Pad With Added Functionality," filed Aug. 18, 2003; (4) U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/654,108, "Ambidextrous Mouse," filed Sep. 2, 2003; (5) U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/840,862, "Multipoint Touchscreen," filed May 6, 2004; (6) U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/903,964, "Gestures For Touch Sensitive Input Devices," filed Jul. 30, 2004; (7) U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/038,590, "Mode-Based Graphical User Interfaces For Touch Sensitive Input Devices" filed Jan. 18, 2005; (8) U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/057,050, "Display Actuator," filed Feb. 11, 2005; (9) U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/658,777, "Multi-Functional Hand-Held Device," filed Mar. 4, 2005; and (10) U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/367,749, "Multi-Functional Hand-Held Device," filed Mar. 3, 2006. All of these applications are incorporated by reference herein.

### TECHNICAL FIELD

**[0003]** The disclosed embodiments relate generally to portable electronic devices, and more particularly, to portable devices for performing instant messaging.

### BACKGROUND

**[0004]** As portable electronic devices become more compact, and the number of functions performed by a given device increase, it has become a significant challenge to design a user interface that allows users to easily interact with a multifunction device. This challenge is particular significant for handheld portable devices, which have much smaller screens than desktop or laptop computers. This situation is unfortunate because the user interface is the gateway through which users receive not only content but also responses to user actions or behaviors, including user attempts to access a device's features, tools, and functions.

**[0005]** Some portable communication devices (e.g., mobile telephones, sometimes called mobile phones, cell phones, cellular telephones, and the like) have resorted to adding more pushbuttons, increasing the density of pushbuttons, overloading the functions of the pushbuttons, or using complex menu systems to allow a user to access, store and manipulate data. These conventional user interfaces often result in complicated key sequences and menu hierarchies that must be memorized by the user.

**[0006]** Many conventional user interfaces, such as those that include physical pushbuttons, are also inflexible. This is unfortunate because it may prevent a user interface from being configured and/or adapted by either an application running on the portable device or by users. When coupled with the time consuming requirement to memorize multiple key sequences and menu hierarchies, and the difficulty in activating a desired pushbutton, such inflexibility is frustrating to most users.

**[0007]** Portable device-based Instant Messaging (IM) services are becoming increasingly popular. But most IM services on portable electronic devices have a rudimentary user interface. It is cumbersome to create instant messages on such devices. A user often needs to press a telephone keypad repeatedly to choose a character. It is also difficult to find and view previous instant messages. For example, it is inconvenient or even impossible for the user to view a series of previous messages with a particular user while composing a new message for that user.

**[0008]** Accordingly, there is a need for portable multifunction devices with more transparent and intuitive user interfaces for instant messaging that are easy to use, configure, and/or adapt.

### SUMMARY

**[0009]** The above deficiencies and other problems associated with user interfaces for portable devices are reduced or eliminated by the disclosed portable multifunction device. In some embodiments, the device has a touch-sensitive display (also known as a touch screen or a touch screen display) with a graphical user interface (GUI), one or more processors, memory and one or more modules, programs or sets of instructions stored in the memory for performing multiple functions. In some embodiments, the user interacts with the GUI primarily through finger contacts and gestures on the touch screen display. Instructions for performing instant messaging operations may be included in a computer program product configured for execution by one or more processors.

**[0010]** One aspect of the invention involves a computer-implemented method in which a portable electronic device with a touch screen display: displays a set of messages exchanged between a user of the device and another person in a chronological order; detects a scrolling gesture comprising a substantially vertical movement of a user contact with the touch screen display, wherein the detecting of the scrolling gesture is substantially independent of a horizontal position of the user contact with the touch screen display; and responds to the scrolling gesture by scrolling the display of messages in accordance with a direction of the scrolling gesture.

**[0011]** Another aspect of the invention involves a computer-implemented method in which a portable electronic device with a touch screen display: displays a list of conversations, each conversation including a set of messages exchanged between a user of the device and a respective other person; detects a scrolling gesture comprising a substantially vertical movement of a user contact with the touch screen display; and responds to the scrolling gesture by scrolling the list of conversations in accordance with a direction of the scrolling gesture, wherein the scrolling gesture is substantially independent of a horizontal position of the user contact with the touch screen display.